



## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: SGT. LARRY KRAUS  
FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL  
(813) 215-1867

### DANGEROUS SUSPECT RETURNS TO FLORIDA

*~ Court allows extradition of man to Florida to face charges ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** –Brody James Whitaker, 37, recently lost his bid in a Connecticut courtroom to avoid his day in a Florida courtroom. Whitaker is accused of an assortment of crimes after two troopers attempted to stop him for traffic violations on March 25, 2010, in Sumter County. He unsuccessfully fought extradition to Florida, and today appeared in a Sumter County courtroom.

Whitaker opened fire on the troopers as he fled in the Chevrolet Suburban he was driving. After firing on the Florida troopers, Whitaker crashed his vehicle and fled on foot into the Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management area in Sumter County. Federal, state and local law enforcement officers joined the Florida Highway Patrol in a widespread search of the area for two days as Whitaker eluded his pursuers, sparking a nationwide manhunt. Authorities were able to track him to a residence in Connecticut, thanks in large part to the men and women at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

“The Florida Highway Patrol appreciates the efforts of all the law enforcement agencies involved in bringing this dangerous man to justice,” said FHP Director, Colonel John Czernis. “We would especially like to thank the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for their tireless work in helping track down this fugitive.”

Whitaker faces charges of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer and aggravated assault on a police officer in Florida. He has a criminal history in several states: Michigan, Virginia, California, Florida and Ohio. He is wanted in Michigan for illegal drugs. Connecticut has charged him with being a fugitive from justice and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov).

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